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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,175	03/26/2001	Stephen G. Perlman	04259P013X	2377

7590 03/22/2004

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EXAMINER

BECKER, SHAWN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/818,175

PP4  
Applicant(s)

PERLMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Shawn M. Becker

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4, 5, and 6</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 9, 19, and 29 are objected to because of the following informalities: “used” in line 3 of the claims [line 4 in claim 29] should be --user--.
2. Claims 2, 12, and 22 are objected to because “each of the potential list of second words”, should be --each word in the potential list of second words-- in order to clarify that each word is ordered and not a plurality of potential lists.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,564,213 to Ortega et al. (hereinafter Ortega).

Referring to claims 1, 11, and 21, Ortega discloses a method, system, and article of manufacture that detects a first word entered by a user with a character-entry device (col. 3, lines 12-19) and provides a potential list of second words to the user (i.e. Fig. 2B), the potential list of second words selected based on the likelihood that each of the words contained in the potential

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list of second words will be selected by the user following the first word. See col. 4, lines 9-14 and 28-33 and col. 6, lines 27-36 and 63-67.

Referring to claims 2, 12, and 22, Ortega discloses ordering the potential list of second words based on the probability that each word in the potential list of second words will be selected by the user following the first word. See col. 1, lines 14-28 and 50-54 and col. 4, lines 9-14.

Referring to claims 3, 13, and 23, Ortega discloses detecting a second word selected by the user with a character-entry device and provides a potential list of third words to the user, the potential list of third words selected based on the likelihood that each of the words contained in the potential list of third words will be selected by the user following the second word. Clearly, the user of Ortega may enter a new search word in the query field in Fig. 2B, which changes the list of suggested words. Furthermore, Ortega teaches that the query entry process is comprised of strings, which may be words or phrases (i.e. a first and second word), and then the auto completion suggests a word (i.e. third word) or phrase. See col. 1, line 65 - col. 2, line 20.

Referring to claims 4, 14, and 24, the second word of Ortega is selected by the user from the potential list of second words. See col. 2, lines 36-40 and col. 5, lines 36-54.

Referring to claims 5, 15, and 25, the second word of Ortega may be entered manually by the user (i.e. via the keyboard) using the character-entry device. See col. 2, lines 14-15.

Referring to claims 6, 16, and 26, Ortega teaches recording selection of the second word following the first word in a database. See col. 4, lines 1-52.

Referring to claims 7, 17, and 27, Ortega discloses linking the second word to the first word in the database. See col. 1, lines 25-27, which describes suggesting terms that frequently

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appear in combination, which requires tracking which words appear in what combination (i.e. the first and second word).

Referring to claims 8, 18, and 28, Ortega discloses storing the number of times that the user has selected the second word following the first word. See col. 4, lines 28-33, which describes monitoring the frequency (number of times) a query (completed selection of first and second word) is submitted, and that this may be customized for each user.

Referring to claims 9, 19, and 29, Ortega calculates a probability that the second word will be selected by the user based on the number of times. See Fig. 5, 86, which shows that a score (probability) is assigned to the search terms (completed selection of first and second words in the query).

Referring to claims 10, 20, and 30, Ortega discloses that the second word from the database may be removed, responsive to a user command to remove the second word. See col. 6, lines 4-6, which describe how the second words (auto completion terms) may be stored as nodes, and col. 6, lines 43-46, which describes deleting these nodes (second words) that a user has no interest in.

### *Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach methods of suggesting terms or strings based on previously entered characters or terms.

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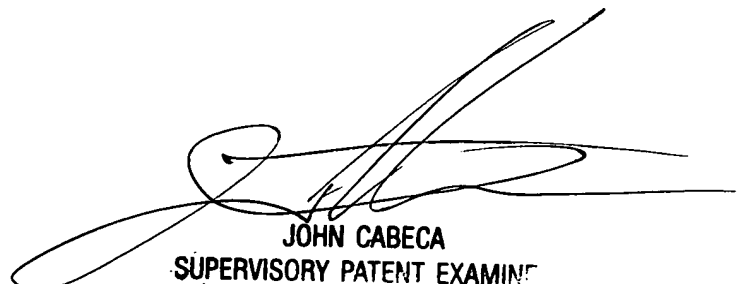
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawn M. Becker whose telephone number is 703-305-7756.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:00 - 5:30 and alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabeca can be reached on 703-308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smb



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